

It is my understanding that Sinclair Broadcasting has recently decided to order its local stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary shortly before the election. I find this outrageous, since Sinclair uses the public broadcast spectrum free of charge. They are obligated by law to serve the public interest in return for that usage.

More and more, however, large media companies ignore the public interest and instead serve their own profit motives. Continuing media consolidation has only worsened this behavior, and is a clear danger to public interest and democracy. Cities across America need to see news from their own communities and about issues important to them, and less of the "new product" produced by some media conglomerate in a distant location.

Sinclair's actions are a good reason to deny renewal of their license. We need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Thank you.